

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rubber composition comprising:  
based on 100 parts by weight of diene rubber (A),  
5 2 to 20 parts by weight of short fiber (B) having an average fiber diameter  
of 10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and average fiber length of 0.01 to 4 mm,  
1 to 10 parts by weight of particles (C) having a Moh's hardness of at  
least 5 and average particle size of at most 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and  
1 to 15 parts by weight of a starch/plasticizer composite material (D).  
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2. The rubber composition of Claim 1, further comprising  
4 to 12 % by weight of a silane coupling agent (E) based on the total  
weight of said starch/plasticizer composite material (D).
- 15 3. A pneumatic tire having a tread comprising the rubber  
composition of Claim 1.
4. A pneumatic tire having a tread comprising the rubber  
composition of Claim 2.